This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A system for testing software, the system comprising:

a processor operatively coupled a computer readable storage medium;

the computer readable storage medium including instructions for a plurality of executors, an executor of the plurality operable to instantiate a program, wherein the program includes instructions for performing at least one action;

the computer readable storage medium further including computer readable instructions for a dispatcher, the dispatcher configured to process a XML document that comprises at least one test case for testing a test program, the dispatcher configured to identify a specific action to be taken from the test case related to testing the test program, the dispatcher further configured to determine which executor of the plurality of executors is operable to perform the specific action, and the dispatcher further configured to call the specific executor and direct the specific executor perform the specific action; and

the computer readable storage medium further including computer readable instructions for a logger, the logger configured to record any errors detected during execution of the test program in a log file.

2. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the logger is further configured to log information associated with the execution of the specific action.

3. (Previously presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the logger is configured to log_trace statements.

4. (Previously presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the logger is configured to log exceptions.

5. (Previously presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the logger is configured to log warnings.

6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 2, wherein the logger is configured to log errors.

7. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising computer readable instructions for a driver, wherein the driver is configured to receive input comprising a level of logging to be performed.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the XML document specifies at least one action to be performed to initialize the test program.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the XML document specifies at least one expected result of performing the specific action.

12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the XML document specifies at least one action operable to restore the test program to a testable state.

13. (Previously presented) A method of testing software, the method comprising:

receiving, by a software tester instantiated by a computer system, a XML test file, wherein the XML test file includes at least one element selected from a group of elements consisting of a first time initialization element, a before each run initialization element, a run once initialization element, an after each iteration element, and a final cleanup element, each element in the XML test file including an action related to testing a specific software program and each element in the XML test file is associated with a scheduling priority level;

selecting, for each element in the XML test file, an executor from a plurality of executors capable of performing the action thereby associating each action with an executor;

scheduling, by the software tester, execution time for each element in the XML test file in accordance with each element's scheduling priority level;

directing, by the software tester in accordance with the scheduled execution time of each element, each selected executor to perform their associated action; and

executing each action and recording errors detected during execution of the specific software program in a log file persisted on a stable medium.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the XML test file includes a first time initialization element including an action related to initializing a global testing environment.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the XML test file includes a run once initialization element including an action related to initializing a testing environment for a single iteration of a test case.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the XML test file includes a run once initialization element including an action related to a test operation.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the XML test file includes an after each iteration element including an action related to validating the result of a test operation.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the XML test file includes a final cleanup element including an action related to restoring a testing environment to a testable state.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the XML test file includes a first test case and the first test case is copied and modified to generate a second test case.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein a test group is generated by combining the first and second test cases into a test group.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein a second test group is generated by combining the test group with a third test case to generating a second test group.

23. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium including computer-executable instructions for:

receiving, by a software tester instantiated by a computer system, a XML test file, wherein the XML test file includes at least one element selected from a group of elements consisting of a first time initialization element, a before each run initialization element, a run once initialization element, an after each iteration element, and a final cleanup element, each element in the XML test file including an action related to testing a specific software program and each element in the XML test file is associated with a scheduling priority level;

selecting, for each element in the XML test file, an executor from a plurality of executors capable of performing the action thereby associating each action with an executor;

scheduling, by the software tester, execution time for each element in the XML test file in accordance with each element's scheduling priority level;

directing, by the software tester in accordance with the scheduled execution time of each element, each selected executor to perform their associated action; and

executing each action and recording errors detected during execution of the specific software program.